

# CONSTITUTION

AND

## BYE-LAWS,

TOGETHER WITH A SUMMARY ABSTRACT OF THE  
ORDINANCES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS  
THAT HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BY THE

# GRAND LODGE

OF

## CONNECTICUT,

FROM THE TIME OF ITS INSTITUTION ON THE  
EIGHTH DAY OF JULY ANNO LUCIS FIVE  
THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGH-  
TY-NINE, UP TO AND INCLUDING  
THE GRAND COMMUNICATION  
IN OCTOBER A. L. 5798.

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HARTFORD:  
PRINTED BY BR. ELISHA BABCOCK.

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1799.

IN GRAND LODGE.

OCTOBER 17th, A. L. 5798.

*The Secretary was directed to procure Six Copies  
of the bye-laws, ordinances, &c. of the Grand Lodge,  
to be printed for each Lodge, and distributed to them  
at the Grand Communication in May next.*



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## CONSTITUTION.

**W**E the members of the several Lodges in the State of Connecticut, to establish order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Masons, and render more general and extensive the principles of benevolence and philanthropy, do ordain and establish this constitution for a Grand Lodge in this State.

That the Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior, and Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Two Grand Deacons, and the Masters and Wardens for the time being, of the several Lodges in this State, and the past Grand officers of the Grand Lodge ; and the said enumerated officers shall be the only members and voters of the Grand Lodge.

The Master and Wardens of any Lodge, who cannot personally attend the Grand Lodge, shall have the privilege of constituting a proxy ; which proxy shall have the same number of votes as his constituent,—and such proxy shall be a Master Mason.

A grand Lodge shall be holden twice every year, viz. on Wednesday next before the second Thursday in October, at New Haven, and on Wednesday next before the second Thursday in May, at Hartford, until the Grand Lodge shall order other-

wise and shall have given four months notice of such alteration to all the Lodges in this State. But the Grand Master for the time being, may at any time call a special Grand Lodge, to meet at such place as he may think proper.

The Officers of the Grand Lodge shall be chosen annually at the Grand Lodge, holden on Wednesday next before the second Thursday in May, by the members of the Grand Lodge present, by ballot ; a majority of voters present shall be necessary to constitute a choice ; proxies present to be accounted members.

In case of the death, resignation, or absence of the acting Grand Master, the next officer in rank of the Grand Lodge, shall act in his place and stead, until the next annual election, and possess all the powers and authorities of Grand Master ; and in case any other office shall become vacant by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Grand Master for the time being shall fill such vacancy by his nomination.

The Grand Lodge shall have power by patent, under their Seal, and sign manual of the Grand Master for the time being, attested by their Secretary, to constitute new Lodges, to establish an uniform mode of working in all the Lodges in this State, and to superintend and regulate the general policy of Masonry, according to the ancient usages and customs of Masons ; carefully regarding the old land marks, which are on no account to be removed or defaced.

The Grand Lodge shall have power to make such bye-laws for their own government, as they shall think proper.

The Grand Lodge upon granting a Charter to a

newly constituted Lodge, may demand such reasonable fees as they shall establish by their bye-laws.

All the Lodges in this State shall before the annual meeting in May next, deposite with the Grand Lodge their present Charters, and shall receive from the Grand Lodge, new charters, which shall be numbered according to the seniority of the dates of their former Charters. The new Charters shall be granted to the present Lodges without any expense,— except the expence of engrossing when that shall be done by the Grand Lodge.

*Done in a convention of the Lodges of the State of Connecticut, holden at New Haven in said State, on the eighth day of July, Anno Lucis, Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-nine.—*

WILLIAM JUDD, *Chairman, and delegate from Frederick Lodge, in Farmington.*

Pierpont Edwards,  
Jonas Prentice,  
Elias Shipman,  
Elijah Austin,  
Russel Clark,

} Hiram Lodge, New Haven.

Asher Miller,  
George Philips,  
Ezekiel Woodruff,  
William W. Parsons,

} St. John's Lodge,  
Middletown.

Elijah Abel,  
Daniel Young,

} St. John's Lodge, Fairfield.

Samuel Wyllys, St. John's Lodge, Hartford.

Nathan Preston, King Solomon's, Woodbury.

Joseph L. Wooster, St. John's Lodge, Stratford.

Tirhand Kirkland, —— *Lodge*, in Wallingford.  
Jashua King, —— *Lodge*, in Danbury.  
Asa Worthington,  
Elijah Bingham,      } *Wooster Lodge*, Colchester.  
Ephraim Kirby, *St. Paul's Lodge*, Litchfield.  
John Mix, *Frederick Lodge*, Farmington.  
Samuel Lee, *Montgomery Lodge*, Salisbury.

*Attest,*

EPHRAIM KIRBY, *Secretary.*

## IN GRAND LODGE.

NEW-HAVEN, October 11, A. L. 5791.

THE Lodge proceeded to the cosideration of the bye-laws as reported by a committee previously appointed for that purpose ; and the same having been read, and such amendments and alterations made as were found proper, were unanimously adopted as follow :

### REGULATIONS

*For the government of the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut.*

1st. The Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut shall consist of the Grand Officers for the time being, and the past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge : but no person shall be a member of this Grand Lodge, any longer than he resides within the jurisdiction of the same.

2d. It shall be the duty of the Masters and Wardens of the several Lodges in this State, to give their punctual attendance at the meetings of the Grand Lodge, either by themselves or proxies ; which proxy shall be a Master Mason,—and the certificate of his appointment, countersigned by the Secretary of the Lodge to which he belongs.

3d. A majority of the members present shall determine evere question ; and the brother in the chair shall have the casting vote.—If any Lodge request a vote to be taken by ballot, it shall be so taken.—

No vote shall be reconsidered by a smaller number of Lodges, than were present when such vote passed.

4th. The Grand Officers shall be chosen annually, at the meeting of the Grand Lodges, on Wednesday preceeding the second Thursday in May at Hartford,—until the Grand Lodge shall order otherwise. A majority of votes shall be necessary to constitute a choice.

5th. The Grand Master (if he judges it necessary) shall appoint Grand Stewards, Grand Marshal, Grand Sword bearer, Grand Puirsuivant, and Grand Tyler; but no brother shall be appointed to either of the above mentioned offices unless he is a Master Mason.

6th. The Jewels to be worn by the Grand Officers shall be gilt with gold, pendant to a collar of white ribbon. The officers and members of the Grand Lodge, shall wear white aprons trimed with white,—which kind of aprons may also be worn by pass'd Grand Officers. The members from private Lodges shall wear their respective Jewels. No member shall appear in Grand Lodge without the Jewel of his office.

7th. Every question moved and seconded, shall be put by the chair; and no new matter shall be brought forward, until that on hand shall be first decided upon. No brother shall speak more than twice on the same question, unless with leave of the chair, or to explain himself. The chair shall determine all questions of order.

8th. It shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to make regular entries of all monies which shall from time to time become due to the Grand Lodge.

9th. The Grand Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due to the Grand Lodge ; and keep regular accounts of all monies by him received ; and at the close of every year, a committee shall be appointed to examine and settle his accounts, who shall report at the next biennial communication : And the Grand Treasurer shall pay out the monies by him received, to the order of the Grand Lodge, or in their recess to the order of the Grand Master.

10th. No new charter shall be granted but upon the petition of at least five known and approved Master Masons ; nor shall a new warrant be granted to any number of Masons residing within less than ten miles of the usual place of meeting of any regularly established Lodge, unless by special dispensation of the Grand Lodge ; and the petition shall contain the causes which render it expedient that such charter should be granted, with the nomination of the Master and Wardens ; and the petition shall be approved by some regularly constituted Lodge, in the vicinity of the petitioners.—Every Lodge shall pay for a charter before delivery, the sum of thirteen dollars thirty-four cents : and to the Grand Secretary for parchment, engrossing, registering, and fixing the Seal, the sum of five dollars.

11th. The Grand Secretary may appoint his deputy, subject to the approbation of the Grand Lodge ; he shall have the care of the Archives, he shall keep fair records of all the transactions of the Grand Lodge.

12th. All appeals from the decision of any private Lodge, shall be made in writing and left with the Grand Secretary. And the appellant shall give the

other party one month notice thereof. All appeals, letters, &c. shall be read in Grand Lodge, but first handed to the chair.

13th. Whenever the Grand Master, or officer presiding, rises from his chair, all debate shall cease, and there shall be strict silence. Any member excluded the Grand Communication, shall be excluded every Lodge under its jurisdiction, until restored by the Grand Lodge ; of this the Grand Secretary shall notify every Lodge.

14th. Upon the demise of any Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the last Secretary and Treasurer of said Lodge, shall within six months afterwards, surrender to the Grand Secretary, the books, paper, jewels, funds, and furniture of said Lodge.

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## RESOLVES, ORDINANCES, &c.

WHEREAS, it has been found that the meeting of the Grand Lodge, the day previous to the session of the State Legislature, is attended with many and great inconveniences,—*Therefore Resolved*, That the Grand Communications shall be holden on Wednesday, next following the second Thursday in May, at Hartford ; and on Wednesday next following the second Thursday in October, at New Haven ; at 5 o'Clock afternoon on each of said days.

*Resolved*, That in future each Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, shall demand and receive into the treasury of the same, for entering, passing, and raising each brother, *not less than the following sums, viz.*

Entering each Apprentice, *Ten Dollars.*

Raising each Apprentice to the degree of Fellow Craft, *One Dollar.*

Raising each Fellow Craft to the sublime degree of Master Mason, *Two Dollars.*

*Ordered*, That the particular Lodges transmit to the Grand Secretary, at the semiannual communications of the Grand Lodge, regular returns of all their new admitted members, that such members may be added to the rolls of their respective Lodges. And that they also transmit to the Grand Secretary, immediately after their annual choice of officers, from time to time, a return of the officers chosen; which returns shall be kept on file in the office of the Grand Secretary, that it may there appear who are members of the Grand Lodge.

*Ordered*, That each Lodge within this jurisdiction, forward to the Grand Secretary, a transcript of their proceedings, when any member is excluded or suspended: And the Grand Secretary shall communicate the same to each Lodge within said jurisdiction.

Whereas it has been represented that in some few instances, persons have applied to, and been initiated members of Lodges, remote from other Lodges in whose vicinity they dwell;—and whereas, from such a practice consequences dangerous and disreputable to the craft may arise, by admitting members

on a slight or partial acquaintance, whose characters will not bear the test of close scrutiny,—which practice to prevent,—*Resolved*, that if a candidate for initiation shall make application to be admitted into any Lodge within this jurisdiction, when his usual place of residence is nearer to another Lodge than that to which he shall apply ; his name, if the Lodge direct, may be entered on their books ; and it shall be the duty of the Secretary of said Lodge, to communicate information in writing without delay, of such application, to the Secretary of the other Lodge, and request of him to know whether there is any objection from that Lodge to the admission of the applicant ;—and if it should be determined in open stated Lodge, that there are any real objections to his person or character, which determination shall be had by ballot, in the same way as for the initiation of a candidate, then it shall be the indispensable duty of the Secretary of the Lodge last mentioned, forthwith to transmit a Copy of the proceedings of the said Lodge on this subject, to the Secretary of the Lodge to whom application was first made,—and the applicant shall not be admitted.—And no candidate under the circumstances above mentioned, shall be initiated within the term of three months from and after the time he was first proposed. This will not be considered as effecting any person living within the limits of a town where there is a regularly established Lodge, though he may be nearer to a Lodge in another town, any thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

*Resolved*, That whenever a candidate for initiation is proposed to any Lodge within this jurisdic-

tion, and not accepted, it shall be the duty of the Secretary, as soon as may be, to communicate information thereof to the Grand Secretary, to be by him transmitted to the several Lodges :—*Provided nevertheless*, that no communication is to be made of any who should be rejected merely on account of non age.

*Resolved*, That no Charter shall be granted for the formation of a new Lodge, until the Master elect has been examined with regard to his knowledge in the Masonic art, by the Grand Lodge, or a committee by them appointed, and approved :—and that the senior and junior Wardens shall in like manner be examined by the officers of some neighbouring Lodge, and be by them recommended to the Grand Lodge, if found well qualified.

*Ordered*, That the Grand Secretary at the close of every communication, shall collect and arange their proceedings, cause them to be printed, and transmitted to the several Lodges in this State and elsewhere, as the Most Worshipful Grand Master shall direct.

*Resolved*, That it is the indispensable duty of every Lodge within this jurisdiction, to attend each half yearly communication either by one or more of their officers, or proxies by them appointed ;—and that every Lodge who shall neglect so to attend, shall incur the penalty of eight dollars for each neglect, to be paid into the Stock of the Grand Lodge ; *Provided*, that no reason satisfactory to the Grand Lodge at their next communication, shall be given for their non attendance.

*Resolved*, That if any Lodge shall neglect to

make a semiannual return at the Communications of the Grand Lodge, of the members that have been initiated, passed, or raised, within each of those periods: which returns are also to contain a list of all expulsions, suspensions, and rejections which have occurred;—the Lodge so neglecting, shall forfeit and pay into the funds of the Grand Lodge the sum of five dollars for each neglect.—And if there has been none initiated, passed, raised, expelled, suspended, or rejected, those facts are also to be returned or certified.

*Resolved*, That when any Lodge shall have incurred a penalty, by the breach of any bye-law or ordinance of the Grand Lodge, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to inform the Master of said Lodge that such penalty is incurred; and in case the same be not paid to the Secretary before the next grand communication, it shall then be his duty to report such negligent Lodge to the Grand Lodge.

*Resolved*, That no entered apprentice shall be passed to the degree of fellow craft, or fellow craft raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason, in a different Lodge from that wherein he was initiated, or within whose limits he actually resides, without a concurrence of the Lodge in which he was so initiated, first had and obtained, which concurrence shall be signified by ballot, in the same way as for the admission of a candidate.

*Resolved*, That the Grand Lodge will not grant charters of erection or dispensation, to any number of Masons residing out of this State, in any other State where there is a Grand Lodge, already es-

stablished ; except it shall be shewn to this Lodge by the petitioners, that the Grand Lodge in the State where they reside acquiesce therein.

*Resolved*, That this Grand Lodge will not hold communication or correspondence with any Mason or Masons, citizens of any of the United States, Lodge or Lodges, who hold authority under, and acknowledge the supremacy of any foreign Grand Lodge, or who do not by their representatives, communicate, and pay their dues to the Grand Lodge of the State where they are so constituted, or reside.

*Resolved*, That the Most Worshipful Grand Master be requested to appoint a Chaplain for this Grand Lodge.

Whereas the duties devolving on the Grand Secretary are many and various ; in the performance of which, considerable time must necessarily be expended : — *Whereupon Resolved*, that he receive from the Treasury of the Grand Lodge, twenty-five dollars per annum, as a compensation for his services, to commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October A. D. 1795, and that he be reimbursed all his actual disbursements in behalf of the Grand Lodge, as he shall from time to time present his bills.

*Resolved*, That no member of any Lodge within this jurisdiction, who hath not received the sublime degree of Master Mason, shall be permitted to propose any candidate for admission into Masonry ; and that none be admitted but by unanimous ballot.

*Resolved*, That each Lodge within this jurisdiction, shall hereafter pay into the funds of the Grand Lodge, one dollar upon each initiation into such Lodge,—and that at every half yearly communica-

tion of the Grand Lodge, each particular Lodge shall make accurate returns of all initiations since the last preceeding communication, and pay the sums due thereon to the Grand Treasurer.

*Resolved*, That the Grand Secretary shall procure a proper plate, and cause to be struck on parchment at the expense of the Grand Lodge, such number of certificates as will be necessary to furnish all the members of the several Lodges within this jurisdiction, who apply for the same; which certificate shall be expressed in the English and French languages, shewing that the bearer is a member of some regular Lodge under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and shall have the seal of the Grand Lodge affixed, and be attested by the Grand Secretary. And every member of any Lodge under this jurisdiction, whose name is returned to the Grand Secretary as such, and as a Master Mason, shall be entitled to receive a Certificate as aforesaid, upon paying to the Grand Secretary for the use of the Grand Lodge, the sum of seventy-five cents.

*Resolved*, That no brother shall be admitted into the Grand Lodge, but such as are members thereof, except a brother who is petitioner, or a witness in some cause, or invited in by the Grand Master or presiding officer.

*Resolved*, That every petition preferred to this Grand Lodge to obtain a Charter for a new Lodge, shall be read and continued to the next semiannual communication, for the purpose of examining the officers elect, and obtaining the best information respecting the characters and local situation of the petitioners.

*Resolved*, That whenever the Grand Lodge shall grant a Charter to any number of Masons not residing in this State, and who are not under the jurisdiction of a Grand Lodge already established, that in such case the petitioners shall pay for the use of the Grand Lodge the sum of thirty dollars, over and above the usual fees for granting Charters to form new Lodges in this State, which shall be considered as in full of all quarterages, or any other pecuniary demands.

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OFFICERS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT, OCTOBER A. L. 5798.

*Most Worshipful* Stephen Titus Hosmer, G. M.  
*Right Worshipful* David Dagget, D. G. M.  
*Worshipful* Ebenezer Huntington, S. G. W.  
*Worshipful* Samuel Bellamy, J. G. W.  
 Henry Champion, G. T.  
 John Mix, G. S.  
 Ephraim Root, S. G. D.  
 Jesse Beach, J. G. D.  
*Right Rev. Bishop* Jarvis, G. Chaplain.  
 Moses Cleveland, G. Marshal.  
 Daniel Hollbrook, G. Sword Bearer.

**FORM OF CERTIFICATE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF PROXY.**

**To the Most Worshipful the Grand Lodge of the State of Connecticut.**

**BE IT KNOWN,**

*That I A. B. (Master, S. or J. Warden as the case may be) of Lodge No. holden in the Town of have and by these presents do constitute T. D. a brother Master Mason and member of said Lodge, my proxy to attend the Grand Lodge, to be hold at H on Wednesday next following the second Thursday of A. D. 179*

*In testimony whereof I have committed to him my jewel of office, and subscribed my name this day of A. L. 579*

*A. D. Master.*

*Countersigned,  
J. H. Secretary.*

**LIST OF LODGES ON THE REGISTRY OF CONNECTICUT, OCTOBER A. L. 5798.**

- No. 1. *Hiram, New Haven.*
- 2. *St. John's, Middletown.*
- 3. *St. John's, Fairfield.*
- 4. *St. John's, Hartford.*

- No. 5. *Union*, Greenwich.
- 6. *St. John's*, Norwalk.
- 7. *King Solomon's*, Woodbury.
- 8. *St. John's*, Stratford.
- 9. *Compass*, Wallingford.
- 10. *Woofter*, Colchester.
- 11. *St. Paul's*, Litchfield.
- 12. *King Hiram*, Derby.
- 13. *Montgomery*, Salsbury.
- 14. *Frederick*, Farmington.
- 15. *Moriah*, Windham County.
- 16. *Temple*, Cheshire.
- 17. *Federal*, Watertown.
- 18. *Hiram*, Newtown.
- 19. *Washington*, Huntington.
- 20. *Harmony*, Berlin.
- 21. *St. Peter's*, New Milford.
- 22. *Hart's*, Woodbridge.
- 23. *St. James's*, Preston.
- 24. *Uriel*, Tolland.
- 25. *Columbia*, Rocky-hill.
- 26. *Columbia*, East Haddam.
- 27. *Rising Sun*, Washington.
- 28. *Morning Star*, East Windsor.
- 29. *Village*, West Simsbury.
- 30. *Day Spring*, Hamden.
- 31. *Union*, New London.
- 32. *Meridian Sun*, Warren.
- 33. *Friendship*, Southington.
- 34. *Somersett*, Norwich.
- 35. *Aurora*, Harwinton.
- 36. *St. Mark's*, Turkey-hills.
- 37. *Western Star*, Norfolk.

- No. 38. *St. Alban's*, Guilford.  
39. *Ark*, Weston.  
40. *Union*, Danbury.  
41. *Federal*, Brookfield.  
42. *Harmony*, Waterbury.  
43. *Trinity*, Killingworth.  
44. *Eastern Star*, Lebanon.



